

# Henry George School of Social Science

Chartered by the University of the State of New York

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## ISSUES AND ALTERNATIVES

Unemployment. Big firms gobbling up small firms. A soaring national debt. Cries for protection from foreign competitors.

Many of the economic and social problems we grapple with today were already problems 100 years ago. And believe it or not, the solutions advanced then are often the same ones which emanate daily from Washington.

But there is something to be gained from examining today's problems in light of their historic development. And we should be able to learn from the mistakes of the past -- as long as we know what they were!

"Issues and Alternatives" is a series of half-hour explorations of current social problems. Each issue is placed in its proper context; each alternative is tested to see if it withstands the cold logic of classical analysis. And each segment of "Issues and Alternatives" is informative, enlightening and thought-provoking.

Spirited panel discussions form the framework of the series. These are complimented by charts, graphs and other visual aids to provide a thorough examination of the episode's particular topic.

"Issues and Alternatives" is the second series produced by Indiana University of Pennsylvania and the Henry George School of Social Science. "Understanding Economics", a 12-part course in fundamental economics, was produced in 1984.

*3-48 set*

*a print*

## ISSUES AND ALTERNATIVES

These programs are part of the "Issues and Alternatives" series.

### "Below the Line: Poverty in Our Times"

Are the poor always to be with us? What affect does chronic poverty have on those afflicted? On those above the line? This program explores these questions as well as a number of proposed solutions to the problem.

### "Playing Monopoly"

Explores the balance between labor and capital and examines the factors that can tilt the scales unnaturally toward one side. Also, has the human cost of our technological revolution been too high?

### "Free Goods or Restrictions"

Examines the place of tariffs, import quotas and other protective measures in the American economy and their effect on production and consumers.

### "Of Mills and Men: The Protection Dilemma"

The protection vs. free trade question is reopened, with an emphasis on how such policy decisions affect America's industrial workers.

### "Idle Lands, Idle Hands"

Is high unemployment inevitable in our society? The causes of this problem -- which never seems to go away -- and a number of proposed solutions are assessed.

### "We Hold These Truths"

How the concept of natural rights has shaped our democracy. Also examined are attempts to encode such rights -- and attempts to obscure them.

## ISSUES AND ALTERNATIVES

### "Is Bigger Better, Or Is Smaller Smarter, Or What?"

Traces the march of concentration and examines why the rich seem to get richer, the big seem to get bigger, and what, if anything, should be done about it.

### "Tinkering With the Wealth Machine"

Shows the effects stimulated production in one industry has on the entire economy, as well as retrenchment in a key industry. Multipliers... Ripples... Trickle-downs...

### "Mortgaging Our Future: The Illogical Case for National Debt"

As the interest on the federal debt assumes a greater share of the budget, we face these essential questions: On what premise has this debt been amassed? How does it affect our economy? And how will it be paid?

### "Of the People..."

What are the proper functions of a government? This program examines the answers put forth by Adam Smith, Henry George, Thomas Jefferson and others.

### "Who Gets What? The Distribution of Wealth"

How workers, employers and land owners squabble for a larger share of the wealth we produce. Who usually wins? The answer might surprise you.

### "God on the Financial Page"

The new mix of ethics and economics. Why are they coming together in the 1980s? Also, what took them so long?